

Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 1036, and I, furthermore, ask for its immediate consideration by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is advised that under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I understand the Speaker's ruling, but nevertheless, I wish the United States of America a very happy birthday.

INVESTING IN OUR NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

(Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act. This infrastructure bill invests in our roads, bridges, transit systems, schools, housing, clean water systems, and so much more.

Importantly, it will create good-paying jobs, repair critical infrastructure, address the climate crisis, and create healthier and safer communities. I am proud that this bill includes key provisions that I championed in Congress, including repairing our natural gas pipelines to prevent methane leaks, investing in our public buildings to make them more energy efficient, and incentivizing our Nation's ports to reduce harmful emissions. These investments are a down payment on our Nation's future, and they will, indeed, help us move America forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of H.R. 2.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF USMCA IN WASHINGTON

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement going into effect today and to recognize the important role this critical trade agreement play for my district in central Washington.

In 2019, Washington State exports to Canada and Mexico totaled \$11.1 billion. Now, due to the challenges of the pandemic on our economy, the USMCA is more vital than ever to provide freer markets, fairer trade, and more economic opportunity in Washington.

This modernized trade agreement will promote the potential for small businesses to aid in the growth and recovery of our State's economy, and it will provide for expansion of equitable trade opportunities for many of central Washington's farmers and ranchers.

The implementation of the USMCA comes at a crucial time for the American economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have supported this trade agreement on behalf of people in central Washington, particularly knowing that my constituents will benefit at a time when they need it most.

SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FOR AMERICA

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, the House will vote to approve a \$1.5 trillion transportation and infrastructure bill.

This American nation-building program will be the largest in American history. The Public Works Administration of 1930s spent nearly \$700 billion in today's dollars. This building program will more than double that investment, creating millions of jobs in the construction trades, jobs in the supply and materials industry, and jobs in the engineering and design industries as well.

The program is good for economic growth at a time when our Nation is desperate for economic growth. For every dollar invested in infrastructure, that investment returns \$1.80, or an 80 percent return on investment, to the United States economy.

The President and both political parties have promised a robust infrastructure investment. Now is the time to reconcile that rhetoric with action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge approval of this bill.

HIGHLIGHTING COVID-19 DEATH STATISTICS

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have heard several speeches this morning about the COVID epidemic.

Like a lot of Americans, every day, I like to get up and see whether we are moving in the right direction or not. I was sad to see this morning—I checked the Worldometer's website because a lot of my constituents tell me that is the one to check, and I was sad to see that, this morning, when they gave the number of deaths yesterday, on Tuesday, they list 764 Americans who had passed away.

However, the Worldometer website kind of goes up and down by the day. It is always very low on Sunday and Saturday. It gets higher on Wednesday and Thursday.

However, I did notice that the 764 deaths yesterday, on Tuesday, was the lowest on a Tuesday since March 23.

Mondays are always very low. We had 366 deaths on Monday. That was also the lowest since March.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we continue to have the progress as we work the number of people who die of this hor-

rible disease down every day, but I have a feeling that a lot of Americans are being misled. So I am just pointing out the way these statistics are going.

CONDEMNING ATTACKS UPON PRESS IN AMERICA

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the free press in America.

I can't believe that I have to say this, but our free press is under attack—physical attack. As Americans have taken to the streets to demand change in the wake of George Floyd's murder, we have seen our First Amendment trampled as hundreds of journalists have been arrested and assaulted by law enforcement officers.

In the past few weeks, members of the press have been detained, gassed, shot at. One reporter lost an eye when she was targeted with rubber bullets, and the most infamous example was the attack upon peaceful protestors and journalists gathered outside the White House.

Mr. Speaker, a free press is one of the most fundamental and cherished values in our country, predating our Constitution. It stems from 1735 when John Peter Zenger was arrested and charged with sedition for criticizing a corrupt British governor of New York.

A free press is one of the most basic ways we hold our government accountable.

On the eve of our Nation's birthday, I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in sponsoring H. Res. 999, which condemns attacks upon the press and the detention of journalists and reaffirms the value of a free press to our democracy.

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USMCA GOES INTO EFFECT TODAY

(Mr. SMUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, a day that the farmers of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District have been looking forward to is finally here. Today marks the day the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, goes into effect.

Over a year ago, I stood here in the Chamber and said one thing I can tell you about the farmers of the 11th District is that they adapt and hold on to hope that better times are yet to come. With the USMCA now in effect, better times are indeed on the way.

I am very proud to represent Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. It is the number one district for agricultural production in Pennsylvania.

The USMCA is a win for farmers, with a number of provisions included that will give the farmers in my district a level playing field and open new

markets as well. These reforms were critical for the district, which, by the way, is the number two producer of eggs in the Nation and also a top dairy producer.

So, again, I would like to thank the President and his administration for their willingness to listen to the farmers in my district and to ensure that USMCA is a win not only for farmers, but for manufacturers and employees in my district as well.

SUPPORTING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I want to raise my voice in support of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act.

I want to congratulate Chairman DEFAZIO. He has been working on this for a long time. This is the infrastructure bill that we have been waiting for. He has followed what my father advised me to do as a young boy: If you are going to do something, do it right. And it is a wonderful bill.

This is something that will repair our crumbling roads and bridges in this country, expand transit and commuter rail, repair and rebuild schools, make childcare facilities safer, deliver broadband to the entire country, reclaim abandoned mines, save affordable housing units, provide access to safe drinking water and good sewer systems, and put more energy into the grid. This is something that this entire Nation needs.

It is time for us to come together and fulfill this promise to the American people to rebuild and reinvest in our American infrastructure. It is the Moving Forward Act, H.R. 2. Let's all vote "yes" on that bill.

NURSING HOME NEGLIGENCE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we continue to see appalling nursing home negligence nationwide, including my home State of Pennsylvania.

Last week, my fellow Pennsylvania Republican Members and I joined the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis to send a letter to State Attorney General Josh Shapiro demanding an explanation for Governor Wolf's deadly decision to readmit COVID-19-positive residents back into nursing homes.

According to the most recent data, Pennsylvania has suffered 4,539 nursing home deaths related to COVID-19. That is more than 68 percent of the State's total COVID-19 deaths and more than 3 percent of the State's entire nursing home population.

The families who have lost loved ones as a result of this reckless policy de-

serve answers, they deserve an explanation, and they deserve closure.

Prior to my being elected to Congress, I spent many years as a licensed nursing home administrator specializing in long-term care, and I have been horrified to see this avoidable crisis unfold.

In closing, I would like to thank our frontline employees in nursing homes. They work so hard to protect the residents. And my sincerest condolences to the families who are grieving.

RUSSIAN BOUNTY ON U.S. TROOPS

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, in response to the attacks on September 11, my son joined the military, and I am now the proud father of a U.S. Air Force veteran.

I know firsthand the anxiety felt by loved ones whose family members are called on to fight for our Nation overseas.

As the father of a former soldier, I am disgusted by the allegation that Russia placed a bounty on our troops, and as an American citizen, I am outraged that the Commander in Chief of our military forces has seemingly abandoned his responsibilities.

The President has an obligation to investigate these accusations and to protect the lives of American soldiers, but, once again, all we are hearing from this White House is denial and deflection.

We deserve to know the truth. When was the President informed and what action has he taken to protect the lives of our troops? Americans should settle for nothing less.

REMEMBERING JACK THOMPSON

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to honor and to recognize Mr. Jack Thompson from Montgomery, Alabama. He passed away on Sunday, June 21, 2020, after a full life of 88 years.

He was born in Colbert County, which is now the Fourth Congressional District, in 1932 and remained a resident of the State of Alabama for his entire life.

After graduating from Colbert County High School, Jack married his sweetheart, Ruth Hester, at the age of 20, and Jack and Ruth were married for 67 years and raised four wonderful children.

For 31 years, Jack worked for Auburn University Extension Service. After retiring, he went on to own a farm in Athens, Alabama, and served as assistant commissioner of agriculture alongside my father-in-law, who was commissioner at the time, Albert McDonald, from the State of Alabama. Then Jack, himself, thereafter was elected

commissioner of agriculture and industries for 4 years for the State of Alabama.

Jack is now survived by his four children, David Thompson, Keith Thompson, Susan Woodham, and Janice Thompson, and his sister, Ann Thomas. He has 11 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Jack will be greatly missed by all his family and friends and all of us that knew him. Jack's legacy will live well into the future.

SUPPORT IMPROVING THE NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Moving Forward Act.

I represent a district where 85 percent of the towns are 5,000 people or fewer, and 60 percent of the towns are 1,000 people or fewer.

Earlier this year, I reached out to every mayor and city administrator and county administrator and village president, 151 leaders, representing towns and counties in the 7,000 square miles in the congressional district that I serve. I listened to their needs, and the Moving Forward Act reflects many of their priorities.

Now, the administration has said this package is biased against rural America, to which I say: What?

The President has failed to bring forward any plan that prioritizes rural America. This bill expands broadband. It strengthens water systems. It provides \$250 million for our rural roads and our communities, rebuilding our rural schools, and prioritizing buying American in all that we build.

Today, for the district I represent, and for all rural communities, I will be proud to cast my vote in favor of this important legislation.

WILDFIRE SEASON HAS BEGUN

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, wildfire season has begun, especially in California. In 2020 so far, 3,100 fires have started, twice as many as the same period in 2019.

Ongoing drought is part of the problem. We will be on the way to surpassing 2019 for the entire season as, indeed, we do have a head start.

We shouldn't leave our fire preparedness plans completely to our firefighters having to go out and do it after the fact. We need to get ahead of the curve.

There are real solutions to getting fires under control in the West. A big part of it is forest management, especially on Federal lands.

There are 100 million dead trees in California. When coupled with years of